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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/628,168	07/28/2000	Jong-Chul Choi	Q60267	2947

7590 02/13/2003
Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue N W
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, FRITZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/628,168

Applicant(s)
Choi

Examiner
Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit
2675



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 12, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6, and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 7 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Magocs (U.S. Pat. No. 5,048,931).

As to claim 1, Magocs discloses a device for enhancing contrast for a liquid crystal display (LCD) projection system (see figure), the contrast enhancing device comprising: an image driver (21) supplying an image signal (col. 1, lines 57-61); an LCD panel (20) for converting the input image signal into an optical image signal and a contrast control portion (i.e., analyzer 22) positioned on the same optical axis as that of the LCD panel (col. 2, lines 63 through col. 3, line 2), for controlling an amount of scanned light according to the brightness of a corresponding image (note the contrast controller (analyzer 22) which blocks the light when the image becomes too bright).

As to claim 2, Magocs discloses a contrast enhancing device wherein the image driver includes an auto brightness limiter (ABL) function for automatically controlling an average brightness of the image signal supplied on said LCD panel (note in the figure, the analyzer 22 controls automatically an average brightness of the image).

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As to claims 3 , 5, Magocs discloses a contrast enhancing device wherein said contrast control portion comprises: a contrast control plate (note the polarizer 18 forming a plate) for controlling an amount of light scanned from said LCD panel and a contrast controller (22) for generating a contrast control signal for controlling the degree of the opening and closing said contrast control plate according to the ABL control signal.

As to claim 8, Magocs discloses a contrast enhancing device, further comprising a polarizing plate (12) for selectively transmitting the light scanned from said LCD panel according to the polarization component of the light (10), wherein said contrast control portion (22) is disposed on an optical path between said LCD panel and said polarizing plate.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bos (U.S. Pat. No. 4,635,051) discloses a high speed electro-optical light gate.

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Daijogo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,622,418) discloses a projection display device.

Nakanishi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,327,093) discloses an image display apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse whose telephone number is (703) 308-8534. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703)308-6606 for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"


Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA.,
Sixth Floor (Receptionist).



F. Alphonse

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February 9, 2003



STEVEN SARAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600